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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the Angolan peace process**

The European Union welcomes recent progress towards the implementation of the Lusaka protocol, in particular the incorporation of UNITA senior officers into the Angolan armed forces. The Union regrets however that over the past few weeks a number of difficulties have delayed the peace process and that it was not possible to either secure the swearing-in of UNITA's deputies or to establish a Government of Unity and National Reconciliation (GURN) as had been agreed for 17 and 25 January 1997.

The European Union stresses, particularly to the UNITA leadership, the importance of their deputies, future ministers and vice-ministers getting to Luanda by 12 February 1997 as determined by the Joint Commission so that a GURN can be established as soon as possible thereafter and, in accordance with Resolution 1087 of the Security Council, without this being linked to other issues.

The European Union calls upon the Government of Angola and UNITA to resolve the remaining obstacles so that a lasting peace can be achieved and programmes of economic and social rehabilitation can be fully implemented.

The European Union reaffirms its support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye, and to the three observer States to the Angolan peace process, Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.